

BEST AVAILABLE COPYKCC 4915.1 (K-C 17,413B.1)
PatentAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Apparatus for making laminated pads, each pad comprising a body laminated with at least a first cover layer, said apparatus comprising:

5 a first cutting roll at a first cutting station for cutting a fiber web as it is fed through a first cutting nip to form individual bodies in the web arranged in predetermined positions relative to one another;

10 a sealing roll at a sealing station defining a sealing nip, wherein the sealing roll receives said at least first cover layer from a cover web feed apparatus for lamination with said bodies to form a laminated web adapted to pass through said sealing nip for sealing of the laminated web by said sealing roll;

15 said first cutting roll and said sealing roll having axes of rotation lying in a first plane and having outer surfaces spaced from one another a distance in said first plane;

20 a first vacuum transfer cylinder rotatable for conveying the bodies from the first cutting station toward the sealing station while maintaining the bodies in their predetermined positions relative to one another, said first vacuum transfer cylinder having an axis of rotation spaced from said first plane and having a diameter greater than said distance between said first cutting roll and said sealing roll;

said first vacuum transfer cylinder and said first cutting

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25 roll being spaced apart to define a first transfer nip for
transfer of the bodies from the first cutting roll to the first
vacuum transfer cylinder, and said first vacuum transfer
cylinder and said sealing roll being spaced apart to define a
second transfer nip for transfer of the bodies from the first
30 vacuum transfer cylinder to the sealing roll; and

an adjustment mechanism for varying the spacing between
the axis of rotation of the first vacuum transfer cylinder and
said first plane thereby to adjust the spacing at the first and
second transfer nips.

2. (Original) Apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein
said adjustment mechanism is adapted for moving the first
vacuum transfer cylinder relative to said first cutting roll
and said sealing roll.

3. (Original) Apparatus as set forth in claim 2 wherein
said adjustment mechanism comprises a mounting assembly for
rotatably mounting said first vacuum transfer cylinder, and an
actuator for moving said mounting assembly.

4. (Original) Apparatus as set forth in claim 3 wherein
said mounting assembly comprises a slide plate slidably
received in a pair of guide rails, said first vacuum transfer
cylinder being rotatably mounted on said slide plate, and
5 wherein said actuator slidably moves the slide plate in the
guide rails.

5. (Original) Apparatus as set forth in claim 4 wherein
said actuator comprises a screw shaft connected to said
mounting assembly, said screw shaft being rotatable in one
direction to move the mounting assembly to increase the spacing

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5 at said first and second transfer nips and rotatable in a second direction to move the mounting assembly to decrease the spacing at said nips.

6. (Original) Apparatus as set forth in claim 5 wherein the diameter of said first transfer cylinder is larger than the diameter of the cutting roll and the diameter of the seal roll.

7. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 5 further comprising:

a second cutting roll at a second cutting station for cutting said sealed laminated web to form pads, said second
5 cutting roll having an axis of rotation lying in said first plane;

a second transfer cylinder rotatable for conveying said sealed laminated web from a third transfer nip between said sealing roll and said second transfer cylinder toward a fourth
10 transfer nip between said second transfer roll and said second cutting roll while maintaining the web in said predetermined position on the second transfer roll, said second transfer cylinder having an axis of rotation spaced from said first plane; and

15 a second adjustment mechanism for varying the spacing between the axis of rotation of the second transfer cylinder and said first plane thereby to adjust the spacing at the third and fourth transfer nips.

8. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first cutting roll comprises an outer surface with vacuum openings therein for holding said bodies in said predetermined positions, said cutting roll being rotatable to
5 convey the bodies from the first cutting nip to said first

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vacuum transfer cylinder while maintaining the bodies in said predetermined relative positions.

9. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said sealing roll comprises an outer surface having vacuum openings therein for conveying said bodies from said second transfer nip to said sealing nip while maintaining the
5 bodies in said predetermined relative positions.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 9 further comprising a third vacuum transfer cylinder rotatable about an axis of rotation, said second cutting roll being rotatable about its axis of rotation to convey said pads
5 from the second cutting nip to a ~~fifth~~ third transfer nip between the second cutting roll and the third vacuum transfer cylinder while maintaining the pads in a predetermined position relative to one another, and a third adjustment mechanism for
10 varying the spacing between the axis of rotation of the third transfer cylinder and said first plane thereby to adjust the spacing at the ~~fifth~~ third transfer nip.

11. (Original) A method of adjusting pad-making apparatus, comprising:

mounting a first cutting roll at a first cutting station for cutting a fiber web as it is fed through a first cutting
5 nip to form individual bodies in the web arranged in predetermined positions relative to one another;

mounting a sealing roll at a sealing station defining a sealing nip, the sealing roll being adapted to receive at least a first cover web from a cover web feed apparatus for
10 lamination with said bodies to form a laminated web adapted to pass through said sealing nip for sealing of the laminated web

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by said sealing roll;

15 said first cutting roll and said sealing roll, as mounted,
having axes of rotation lying in a first plane and having outer
surfaces spaced from one another a distance in said first
plane;

20 mounting a first vacuum transfer cylinder having a
diameter greater than said distance between said first cutting
roll and said sealing roll in a position wherein an axis of
rotation of the cylinder is spaced from said first plane and
the cylinder is spaced from the first cutting roll and said
sealing roll to define first and second transfer nips,
respectively; and

25 varying the spacing between the axis of rotation of the
first vacuum transfer cylinder and said first plane thereby to
adjust the spacing at the first and second transfer nips.

12. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 11 further
comprising removing at least one of said first cutting roll and
said sealing roll and replacing it with a cutting roll or
sealing roll of different diameter, and re-adjusting the
5 spacing at said first and second transfer nips by varying the
spacing between the axis of rotation of the first vacuum
transfer cylinder and said first plane.

13. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 11
wherein said spacing between the axis of rotation of the first
vacuum transfer cylinder and said first plane is varied by
moving the first vacuum transfer cylinder relative to said
5 first cutting roll and sealing roll.

14. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 13 wherein
said first vacuum transfer cylinder is moved along a linear

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path relative to said first cutting roll and sealing roll to adjust the spacing at the first and second transfer nips.

15. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 14 further comprising raising said first vacuum transfer cylinder to increase the spacing at said first and second transfer nips and lowering said first vacuum transfer cylinder to decrease the
5 spacing at said first and second transfer nips.

16. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said pads are interlabial pads.

17. (Currently amended) An interlabial pad made using the method of claim 11.

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